

## Teen Aging

for Mona Ruth Sutton McMullin

*for her 70th birthday with love from Charlie*

She's always a teenager  
left fending for herself;  
after giving all that she can  
to loving someone else.

Her first eighteen year childhood  
contained a lifetime's tears.  
Her father slipped into Heaven—  
She felt abandoned with her fears.

“Goodbye Mother”, she said,  
“I want to drive fast.  
Stop living in your past.  
Let me free”, she wed.

After eighteen years the bride,  
she got off that ride.

Struck out on her own,  
up a steep winding path.

Four kids on her back.

Through false starts, close calls, and tight times;  
accidental miracles and Heavenly neighbors!

Many cold meals, second and third jobs;  
she kept her children safe.

It was never quite clear, how, she did  
for eighteen long years!

Before love found her again.

Her soul mate for life  
was a musical man,  
who played her sweet songs,  
and joined in her band,  
for a sixteen year one night stand

The hole that he leaves behind  
can never be filled—  
although he would not mind

Now she's a grandmother too,  
wonderin' what more to do,  
for me and for you

When she meets him in her dreams at night  
he always looks much younger and her longing never slows.  
Now he lives through her adventures  
in the wild unknown countries where the cassowary grows.

She's been teenaged four times now.  
And her children and her kin,  
are witnessing together  
her chrysalis again.

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